

PROCEEDINGS
OF THE
BIOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF WASHINGTON

ON SOME BIRDS FROM THE SIERRA NEVADA DE
SANTA MARTA, COLOMBIA.

BY OUTRAM BANGS.

Mr. W. W. Brown, Jr., has recently sent a third lot of birds, including about three hundred skins, to the Bangs collection. These specimens were collected during May and June, 1898, at the following localities in the Sierra Nevada de Santa Marta, Colombia: Palomina, altitude 5000 feet; San Francisco, 6000 feet; San Miguel, 7500 feet; and Macotama, 8000 feet. Many of the birds are in worn breeding plumage, and some of the species are also represented by young in first plumage. Again I am indebted to Mr. R. Ridgway and Dr. C. W. Richmond for aid in determining many species.

(NOTE.—All measurements are in millimeters. Colors, when definite names are used, are according to Ridgway's Nomenclature of Colors.)

Neocrex colombianus sp. nov.

Type (and only specimen), from Palomina, Colombia, No. 5700, ♀ adult, coll. of E. A. and O. Bangs. Collected May 22, 1898, by W. W. Brown, Jr. Altitude, 5000 feet.

Specific characters.—This species resembles in a general way the only other member of the genus—*N. erythroptus* Scl. of Lima, Peru, but differs much in details of coloration and markings—lower abdomen white instead of dusky brown; lower flanks and under tail-coverts, *unbarred*, pale, cinnamon instead of blackish; under wing-coverts white, some of the feathers faintly streaked with dusky, instead of "dusky brown narrowly barred with white."

Color.—Adult ♀, back, rump, upper tail-coverts and wings (except primaries) bistre; primaries hair brown, narrowly edged with bistre; tail bistre, the center and base of the feathers shading towards hair brown;

pileum brownish slate, some of the feathers tipped with dark bistre; throat white; sides of head, sides of neck, jugulum, breast and abdomen slate gray; center of belly pure white; flanks and under tail-coverts pale cinnamon, without a trace of any barring whatever; bend of wing and under wing-coverts white, a few of the feathers slightly streaked or spotted with very pale and indistinct markings of hair brown; axillars pale bistre; 'tarsus red; base of bill red, tip green.'*

Size.—♀ adult: Length, skin, 148; † wing, 93.2; tail, 29; exposed culmen (approximately, a shot having broken base of upper mandible), 18.8; tarsus, 30.

Remarks.—I have had no specimens of *N. erythroops* for comparison; but Sclater's original diagnosis, as well as Sharpe's description of an adult female, in the British Museum, ‡ indicate a bird so different from mine as to leave no doubt of the specific distinctness of the two.

***Porzana albigularis* (Lawr.).**

Two adult males from Palomina, May.

***Columba albilinea* Bp.**

One adult female from Palomina.

***Falco sparverius* Linn.**

Two adults, male from Palomina, June 22; female from San Miguel, June 14.

***Conurus wagleri* Gray.**

Seventeen adults, males and females, from Palomina and San Miguel.

***Pionus sordidus* (Linn.).**

One adult male from San Miguel, June 17, 1898.

***Crotophaga ani* Linn.**

One female from Palomina.

***Aulacorhamphus calorhynchus* Gould.**

Two adult males from Palomina. In my two former papers on the birds collected by Mr. Brown I wrongly gave the type locality of this species as Santa Marta. It is really Merida, Venezuela.

Mr. Brown has now sent seven specimens. This series shows great va-

* Note made by Mr. Brown from the fresh specimen.

† Mr. Brown's skins are rather smaller than those of most collectors, but as this measurement is only approximate in any case, I give it for what it is worth.

‡ Cat. Birds Brit. Mus., XXIII, 1894, 163.

riation in the length of the bill, which certainly does not depend upon sex, but seems to be individual.

I have some doubt whether the bird from the Sierra Nevada de Santa Marta is subspecifically the same as that of the Andes of Venezuela, but without material from the type locality I cannot be sure. All my specimens have a large black mark at the base of the culmen; the end of the tail is strongly bluish; and there is a wash of dark olive yellow on the sides of the head.

***Aulacorhamphus lautus* * sp. nov.**

Type (and only specimen), from San Miguel, Colombia. No. 5789, ♂ adult, coll. of E. A. and O. Bangs. Collected June 6, 1898, by W. W. Brown, Jr. Altitude, 7500 ft.

Specific characters.—Not much like any described species. Among the species having chestnut tips on rectrices it agrees in color of throat only with *A. albivittatus*, but is a much smaller bird, lacks the chestnut basal portion of mandible, and has the basal portion of culmen black, besides differing in several minor particulars. In pattern of bill the new species agrees best with *A. cæruleogularis* of Costa Rica and Veragua, but differs in the absence of the chestnut spot at base of yellow maxillary stripe, and in having a gray instead of deep blue throat.

Color.—Upper parts grass green—more bluish on wings, more yellowish on back; primaries and inner webs of secondaries dusky, with narrow yellow border on inner edges; a small blue supraorbital stripe; throat cinereous; breast and abdomen pale grass green to apple green; feathers of center of belly white at base; crissum chestnut; tail, above, green, bluish towards end, each feather tipped with chestnut; below, black, each feather tipped with chestnut; bend of wing and under wing-coverts pale yellow. Bill, maxilla, tip and stripe along culmen which divides at base of culmen and encloses a large black patch, yellow; sides and patch at base of culmen black; mandible black; a broad yellowish white stripe across base of maxilla and mandible.

Size.—Length (skin), 291; wing, 124; tail, 108.8; exposed culmen, 69.6; tarsus, 34.

***Phœthornis longirostris* (Less. and De Latt.).**

Four adults, three males and one female, from Palomina.

***Petasophora iolata* Gould.**

Twenty-eight adults, males and females, from Macotama and San Miguel—May and June.

***Leucuria* gen. nov. (Trochilidæ).**

Type.—*Leucuria phalerata*, sp. nov.

Characters.—Related to *Helianthea* and also to *Hemistephania*. Bill long,

* *Lautus* = neat, elegant, in a fine dress.

straight, cylindrical (slightly shorter and broader than in *Helianthea*); wings reaching about to end of tail; tarsus naked with the exception of a bunch of white feathers near heel; tail long, broad, forked, pure white; upper and under tail-coverts white; whole crown, forehead, and lores metallic.

(For size, colors, and arrangement of colors, see description of type species below.)

***Leucuria phalerata* sp. nov.**

Type (and only specimen) from Macotama, Colombia. No. 5731, ♂ adult, coll. of E. A. & O. Bangs. Collected June 17, 1898, by W. W. Brown, Jr. Altitude, 8000 ft.

Color.—Forehead, crown and lores very brilliant metallic blue, with, in some lights, green reflections; auriculars, back and wing-coverts dark grass green, in some lights quite dusky on cervix and upper back; chin dark grass green with slight metallic reflections; throat metallic violet; breast metallic sea green; abdomen shining grass green; wings purplish-brown; feathers of tarsi, upper and under tail-coverts and tail, including shafts of feathers, pure white.

Size.—♂ adult: Length (skin), 120; wing, 72.2; tail—longest rectrix, 47, shortest rectrix, 35.6; culmen, 26.8; greatest width of outer rectrix, 9.8.

Remarks.—Of this fine hummer Mr. Brown has taken but one adult male—the only one seen in months of collecting. This adds another striking local species of humming bird to the five already described from the Sierra Nevada de Santa Marta.

***Thalurania columbica* (Bourc.).**

Two adults, male and female, from San Miguel and Palomina.

***Metallura smaragdnicollis* (D'Orb. and Lafr.).**

Two adults; male from Palomina, May 10, female from San Miguel, June 12, 1898.

***Panychlora russata* Salv. and Godm.**

Six adults, five males and a female, from San Miguel and Palomina, May and June.

***Myiotheretes striaticollis* Scf.**

One adult male from Macotama, June 17, 1898.

***Ochthoeca poliogaster* Salv. and Godm.**

One adult female from Macotama, June 17, 1898.

***Sayornis cineracea* (Lafr.).**

One young in first plumage from San Miguel, June 4, 1898.

Tyranniscus chrysops (Scl.).

Two males, one adult, the other young, from Palomina.

Elænia browni Bangs.

Five adults from San Miguel, June.

Elænia sororia sp. nov.

Eleven adults, males and females, ten from Palomina, May, and one from San Miguel, June 16, 1898.

Type from Palomina, Colombia, No. 5826, ♀ adult, coll. of E. A. and O. Bangs. Collected May 10, 1898, by W. W. Brown, Jr. Altitude, 5000 ft.

Specific characters.—Similar to *E. browni*, but darker and not so greenish above; cap considerably darker than the back (nearly uniform in *E. browni*); concealed white at base of crown pronounced (nearly obsolete in *E. browni*); inner web of innermost tertiary only edged with white (wholly white in *E. browni*); patch of greenish-yellow edging on outer webs of secondaries not so bright and pronounced as in *E. browni*; lining of wing strongly tinged with buff—clear yellow in *E. browni*; bill more robust and not so compressed near the tip.

Color.—Adult in somewhat worn plumage; upper parts dull olive brown (almost hair brown); cap darker than back; large concealed white patch on center of crown; wing bars, edgings of primaries, secondaries, and tertiaries yellowish or greenish white; lining of wing buffy; throat dull gray; breast, sides and flanks brownish gray; abdomen and under tail-coverts pale yellow to yellowish white.

Size.—♂ adult, Topotype, No. 5827: Length, skin, 134; wing, 77; tail, 66; exposed culmen, 10.8; tarsus, 17.4. ♀ adult, Type—Length, skin, 128; wing, 73; tail, 63.2; exposed culmen, 10.6; tarsus, 17.

Remarks.—*E. browni* and *E. sororia* are closely related, though entirely distinct species. From the material Mr. Brown has so far collected, I should judge that *E. sororia* is found at rather lower elevations than *E. browni*, though their ranges meet. At Palomina Mr. Brown found only *E. sororia*. At San Miguel he took five examples of *E. browni* and one of *E. sororia*. The molting season of the two species appears to be different, as the specimens of *E. browni* shot at different dates in June at San Miguel are all in fresh plumage, while all the examples of *E. sororia* taken at Palomina in May and the one killed at San Miguel, June 16, are in somewhat worn plumage. The great difference in color between the two series may be in part seasonal; but *E. sororia* is probably never very greenish on the upper surface.

Both *Elænia browni* and *E. sororia* seem to belong in that section of the genus called *Myiopagis* by Salvin and Godman: * a group I should be unwilling to allow even subgeneric rank.

* Biol. Cent.-Am., Aves, II, 1888, 26 (Type *Elainea placens* Scl.).

Myiozetetes texensis colombianus (Cab. and Heine).

One adult female from Palomina.

Rhynchocyclus sulphureus (Spix).

Three adults, two males and one female, from Palomina.

Myiodynastes audax nobilis (Scl.).

One adult male from Palomina.

Myiodynastes chrysocephalus (Tschudi).

One adult female from San Francisco.

Megarhynchus pitangua (Linn.).

One adult male from Palomina.

Myiobius vieillotioides (Lafr.).

One adult male from San Francisco, June 1, 1898.

Myiobius nœvius (Bodd.).

One adult female from Palomina. The crest is yellow slightly tinged with orange.

Myiarchus nigriceps Scl.

Ten specimens from Palomina and San Miguel. Nine are adults in rather worn plumage and one is a young bird in first plumage.

Tyrannus melancholicus satrapa (Licht.).

Ten adults, including both sexes. Eight are from Palomina and two from Macotama. The Macotama birds have larger bills than those from Palomina but otherwise do not seem to differ.

Milvulus tyrannus (Linn.).

Five specimens from Palomina, four adults and one young in first plumage.

Formicivora caudata Scl.

Two specimens, one a male and the other probably a female, from Palomina, taken in May and June.

It is very probable that these are not true *F. caudata* Scl., which is said to have black rectrices tipped with white. The Palomina birds have brown tails, with a subapical black band and white tips; they may not, however, be fully adult.

Synallaxis albescens Temm.

Five adults, males and females, from Palomina, May.

Synallaxis fuscorufa ScL.

Three adults, two males and one female, from San Miguel, May and June. These appear to be *S. fuscorufa*, the type locality of which is San Sebastian, Colombia, though they do not agree well with Sclater's description, in which the back is said to be brown. The San Miguel specimens are in somewhat worn plumage, with the back rather gray than brown—a grayish hair brown—the breast ferruginous rather than cinnamon, and little paler than the cap.

Xiphocolaptes procerus Cab.

One adult female from Macotama June 24. Judged by descriptions, this specimen is *X. procerus*. Mr. Ridgway has examined the skin and is of also this opinion.

Sclerurus albigularis Swains. (subsp. nov. ?).

One adult female from Palomina, May 18.

This skin Mr. Ridgway has compared with a specimen of *S. albigularis* from Tobago, and with the type of *S. canigularis* from Costa Rica, and finds that it is exactly intermediate. If more specimens from the same region should prove the characters of this intermediate race to be constant it might be well to give it a subspecific name.

Grallaria spatiator sp. nov.

Type (and only specimen) from Macotama, Colombia. No. 5683, ♂ adult, coll. of E. A. and O. Bangs. Collected June 17, 1898, by W. W. Brown, Jr. Altitude, 8000 ft.

Specific characters.—Resembling *G. rufula*, but with much shorter bill; longer and more slender tarsus; and darker, duller brown coloration.

Color.—Upper parts, about mummy brown, many of the feathers shaded by a more reddish olive tinge; primaries dusky edged with russet; tail mummy brown; chin whitish; throat and breast cinnamon-russet; flanks raw umber; lower abdomen and crissum soiled white, the feathers somewhat marbled with raw umber and russet.

Size.—♂ adult: Length, skin, 132; wing, 83.6; tail, 42; exposed culmen, 20; tarsus, 46.

Ostinops decumanus (Pall.).

Two adults, male and female, from Palomina.

Cassidix oryzivora (Gmel.).

Four specimens, adult males, and female, and young male, from Palomina.

Spinus spinescens capitaneus subsp. nov.

Three adult males from San Miguel.

Type.—From San Miguel, Colombia. No. 5674, ♂ adult, coll. of E. A. and O. Bangs. Collected June 14, 1898, by W. W. Brown, Jr. Altitude, 7500 ft.

Subspecific characters.—Like true *S. spinescens* but much larger; bill very much larger.

Color.—Adult ♂: Forehead and crown black; occiput, cervix, back and upper tail-coverts dark oil green, slightly touched with indistinct dusky markings; lower rump bright olive green; wings black, crossed by a broad yellow band, middle and greater coverts tipped with oil green; secondaries edged with green, tipped with whitish; primaries narrowly edged with green and just tipped with whitish; under parts between oil green and olive yellow, more green on throat, upper breast, sides and flanks, more yellow on lower breast, upper abdomen and under tail-coverts; center of belly white; tail black, yellow at base.

Size.—Adult ♂: Length, skin, 106; wing, 70.8; tail, 46.2; exposed culmen, 11; depth of bill at base, 7.6; tarsus, 14.2.

Remarks.—The three skins agree very closely among themselves and differ from true *S. spinescens* in being much larger, especially the bill.

Brachyspiza capensis peruviana (Lesson).

Four adult males, from San Miguel.

Buarremon melanocephalus Salv. and Godm.

Twenty specimens, males, females, and young in first plumage, from San Miguel, Palomina, and San Francisco.

The young are similar to the adults but the colors are all duller, the back is more olivaceous, and the under parts duller yellow, somewhat marked on the sides and chest with dusky spots.

Saltator magnus (Gmel.).

Four adults, males and females, from San Miguel and Palomina. I still doubt whether this bird is true *S. magnus*, but having no specimens from Cayenne for comparison, must let it pass as such.

Arremon schlegeli Bp.

Four adults, males and females, from Palomina and San Miguel.

***Emberizoides macrurus* (Gmel.).**

Three specimens, an adult male from San Miguel, an adult female from Macotama, and a female in first plumage from Palomina.

These birds differ slightly from the single topotype in the National Museum collection. The edges of the primaries are much brighter yellowish olive green.

***Sporophila gutturalis* (Licht.).**

Ten adults, males and females, from Palomina.

***Pœcilothraupis melanogenys* Salv. and Godm.**

One adult female from Macotama, June 17, 1898.

***Euphonia crassirostris* Scl.**

One young male from Palomina.

***Calospiza desmaresti* (Gray).**

Twelve specimens, males, female, and young, from Palomina.

***Calospiza cyanoptera* (Swains.).**

Twelve adults, males and females, from Palomina and San Miguel.

***Ramphocelus dimidiatus* Lafr.**

Twenty specimens, adults of both sexes and young in first plumage. All from Palomina and San Miguel.

***Tachyphonus rufus* (Bodd.).**

Two adults, male and female, from Palomina.

***Procnias tersa occidentalis* (Scl.).**

Eleven specimens, adult males and females and one young just emerging from first plumage, from Palomina, San Miguel, and San Francisco.

***Diglossa sittoides similis* (Lafr.).**

Two adults, male and female, from San Miguel.

***Diglossa albilateralis* Lafr.**

Three adults, males and female, from San Miguel.

***Diglossa nocticolor* sp. nov.**

Five adult males from Macotama, June.

Type, from Macotama, Colombia. No. 5610, ♂ adult, coll. of E. A. and O. Bangs. Collected June 17, 1898, by W. W. Brown, Jr. Altitude, 8000 ft.

Specific characters.—Nearest to *D. aterrima* Lafr., but differing from that species in having slate gray instead of black rump, upper tail-coverts and flanks.

Color.—Adult ♂: Black all over except rump, upper tail-coverts and flanks, which are slate gray; feet, black; bill—maxilla, black; mandible, black at tip, bluish horn-color at base; 'iris hazel.'*

Size.—Adult ♂: Length, skin, 135; wing, 76; tail, 67.4; exposed culmen, 10.8.

Remarks.—This species is readily distinguished from *D. aterrima* by its slate gray rump, tail-coverts and flanks. It is, however, probably the *D. aterrima* of Salvin and Godman (Ibis, 1880, p. 119).

***Compothlypis pitaiyumi pacifica* (Berl.).**

Five adults, males and females, from Palomina.

***Basileuterus mesochrysus* ScL.**

Six adults of both sexes, all taken at Palomina.

***Basileuterus cinereicollis* ScL.**

Three adult males from San Francisco and Palomina.

***Setophaga verticalis* Lafr and D'Orb.**

Five adults, males and females, from San Miguel.

***Setophaga flavivertex* Salv.**

Two adults, male and female, from Macotama, June 17, 1898.

***Thryothorus laetus* Bangs.**

Three specimens, adult male and female, and young in first plumage, from Palomina.

The adults are in rather worn plumage, but the male agrees exactly with the type of the species from Pueblo Viejo. Adult ♀, No. 5794, is not so heavily spotted on the breast and abdomen as the two males; this may be due to the abraded condition of the feathers, or may be a sexual character. The young example is very different, being altogether unspotted; above it is colored much like the adults, below it is dull rufous,

* Note by Mr. Brown from fresh specimen.

paler on center of belly, and darker on breast and sides, the throat and sides of the head are dull gray.

Henicorhina leucophrys (Tschudi).

Four adults, males and females, from San Francisco, Palomina, and San Miguel.

Catharus aurantirostris (Hartl.).

Four adult males from Palomina.

Merula phæopyga minuscula subsp. nov.

One adult, sex undetermined, from Palomina, June 1, 1898.

Type from Pueblo Viejo, Colombia. No. 5605, ♂ adult, coll. of E. A. and O. Bangs. Collected March 23, 1898, by W. W. Brown, Jr. Altitude, 8000 ft.

Subspecific characters.—Smaller than true *M. phæopyga* of British Guiana; wing shorter; color of back and crown darker (olive in *M. phæopyga minuscula*, bistre in *M. phæopyga phæopyga*).

Size.—Type, ♂ adult: Length, skin, 183; wing, 102.4; tail, 81.2; exposed culmen, 17; tarsus, 29.

Topotype, No. 5604, ♂ adult, Length, skin, 185; wing, 103; tail, 82; exposed culmen, 16; tarsus, 27.6.

Remarks.—Although very like true *M. phæopyga*, the bird of the Santa Marta Mountains is slightly smaller and a darker more olive brown above. I no longer have any hesitation in regarding it as a fairly well marked subspecies. It is much more closely related to true *M. phæopyga* than to any of the other races of that thrush.

Mr. Brown, though in the mountains during the breeding season, took but three examples of *M. phæopyga minuscula*, and reports it a rare bird. As it is a remarkable singer, it is not likely that he passed many males unnoticed, at that season.

Merula gigas cacozela subsp. nov.

Two adults, male and female, from Macotama, June.

Type from Macotama, Colombia. No. 5685, ♀ adult, coll. of E. A. and O. Bangs. Collected June 21, 1898, by W. W. Brown, Jr. Altitude 8000 ft.

Subspecific characters.—Size of true *M. gigas*; tail much shorter; colors paler, the tail in particular much lighter in color.

Color.—Upper parts, between olive and hair brown; primaries and tail the same color, but a shade darker; under parts varying from dull brocoli brown to hair brown, slightly shaded with cinnamon on abdomen; axillars, bend of wing and under primary coverts olive brown; under wing-coverts hazel, shading towards olive brown on the centers of the feathers; tarsus, foot and bill bright yellow.

Size.—Adult ♂: Length, skin, 277; wing, 144.6; tail, 135; exposed

culmen, 31; tarsus, 45.4. Adult ♀: Length, skin, 260; wing, 144; tail, 134.6; exposed culmen, 30.8; tarsus, 46.

Remarks.—When compared with Bogota specimens, which are considered typical *M. gigas*, the very short, light colored tails of the Macotama birds serve to distinguish the subspecies *cacozela*. This form is probably found throughout the Sierra Nevada de Santa Marta. Messrs. Salvin and Godman (*Ibis*, 1879, p. 198) record one specimen collected at San Sebastian by Simons; and notice that it differs from true *M. gigas*.

There is also a young thrush in the collection, apparently about full grown though in first plumage, taken at Palomina, May 21, 1898. I take it to be the young of my *Merula incompta*, but as Mr. Brown secured no adults of that species at Palomina, I cannot be sure. It certainly is not the young of either *M. gigas cacozela* or *M. phæopyga minuscula*.